

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00883 110108Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 OES-06 /097 W
-----110631Z 116061 /11

R 102149Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2834
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0883

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, XP, TN, GW
SUBJECT: EXPANDED FRG ROLE IN SOUTH PACIFIC ENVISAGED BY GERMAN
EMBASSY

REF: (A) BONN 04062, (B) WELLINGTON 0809

SUMMARY: WEST GERMAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
IN WELLINGTON HAS RECOMMENDED TO BONN A GREATLY EXPANDED
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ROLE FOR WEST GERMANY IN THE
SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. OBJECTIVES APPEAR TO BE TO THWART
SOVIET DESIGNS AND TO FIND AN OUTLET FOR GERMAN CAPITAL
AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW IN AN AREA OF TRADITIONAL
GERMAN INTEREST. NO REACTION HAS SO FAR BEEN RECEIVED
FROM BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CONVERSATIONS ON MARCH 9 AND 10, WEST
GERMAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WERNER SCHMITZ CONFIDED
TO US AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM WHICH HE HAS RECOMMENDED
TO BONN TO EXPAND THE WEST GERMAN ROLE IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC AREA. INCLUDING NEW ZEALAND, FIJI, WESTERN
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 00883 110108Z

SAMOA, TONGA AND ULTIMATELY PAPUA NEW GUINEA.
THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE AN OFFER TO NEW ZEALAND OF
SHIPS, MONEY AND KNOW-HOW IN EXPLOITING
NEW ZEALAND'S 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH IS LIKELY
TO BE DECLARED WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. AS ENVISAGED BY
SCHMITZ, NEW ZEALAND WILL NEED IMMEDIATE HELP IN
FISHING. THIS IS WHERE WEST GERMANY CAN PLAY A ROLE,

HAVING CAPITAL, KNOW-HOW IN SUPPLYING ALL KINDS OF FISHING VESSELS AND A DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCE IN EXPLOITING THE RISHES OF THE SEA.

2. SCHMITZ DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE REACTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE. HE KNOWS THERE IS A DISINCLINATION TO UNDERTAKE ANY EXPENSIVE NEW VENTURES, BUT HE HOPES BONN CAN BE PERSUADED TO SEIZE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THWART SOVIET AMBITIONS IN THE AREA AND TO EASE, IF ONLY MINIMALLY, WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES. THE ADVENT OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, THE AREA ENCOMPASSED BY NEW ZEALAND, THE VARIOUS ISLANDS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA WILL CONSTITUTE ALMOST A MARECLAUSUM. ALL THE COUNTRIES IN IT WILL NEED HELP IN EXPLOITING THEIR EXPANED SEA RESOURCES AND IN PREVENTING UNWANTED OUTSIDE POWERS, SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION, FROM TRYING TO GRAB EVERYTHING IT CAN.

3. SCHMITZ SAYS THAT IN HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO BONN HE HAS TRIED TO LOOK AHEAD FOR THE NEXT 20 TO 30 YEARS DURING WHICH THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA AND THE NOT-VERY-FAR-AWAY CONTINENT OF ANTARCTICA WILL BE FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITY. THE WEST GERMAN CHARGE RECOGNIZED THAT AN EXPANDED DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE WILL BE REQUIRED, PROBABLY IN FIJI AND PAU NEW GUINEA. HE REFERRED TO RECENT WEST GERMAN EXPEDITIONS THAT HAD EXPLORED KRILL RESOURCES IN ANTARCTICA AND FORESAW A BROADENING WEST GERMAN SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT AND THE WATERS SURROUNDING IT. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 WELLIN 00883 110108Z

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D770083-1234
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From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 98
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